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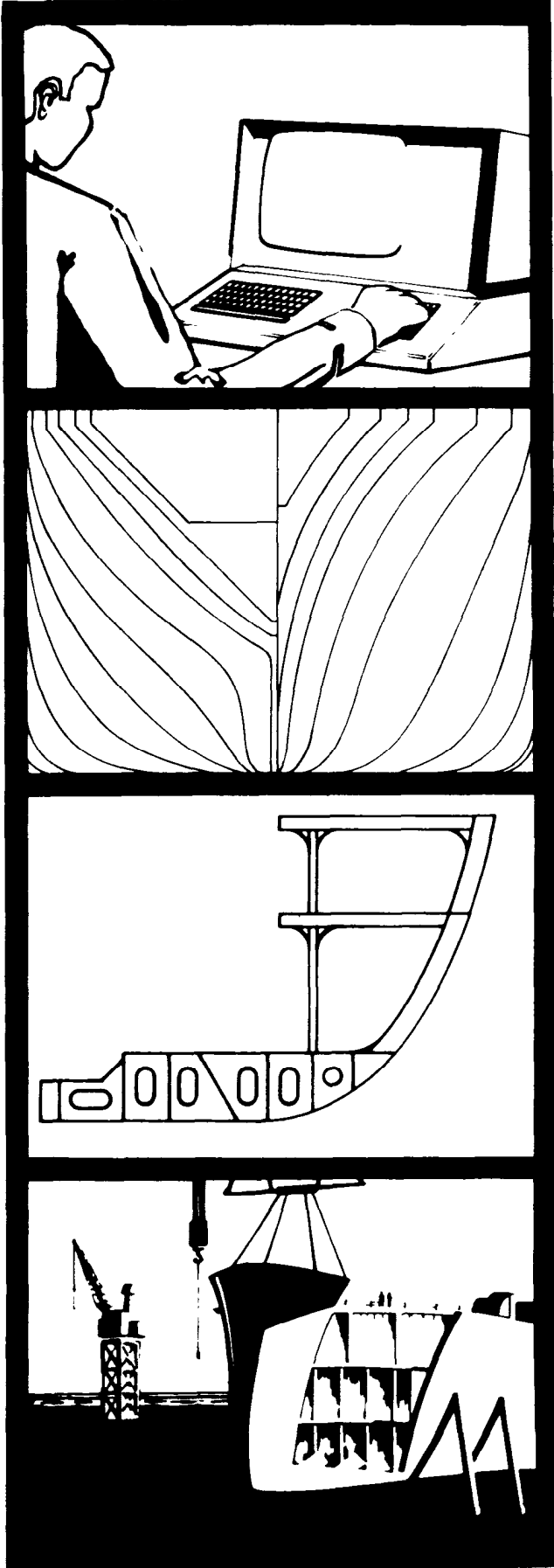
Paper No. 2: An Information Service for the Maritime Industry

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AN INFORMATION SERVICE FOR THE MARITIME INDUSTRY

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ABSTRACT

The paper reviews the services and publications available to the maritime industry through the Maritime Research Information Service (MRIS). This is a computer based service sponsored by the Maritime Administration and operated by the Transportation Research Board of the National Research Council. Information distribution to the maritime industry is provided through monthly and semi-annual publications to subscribers, special bibliographies, computerized retrievals on request, and on-line retrieval directly through the Lockheed DIALOG System

The Maritime Research Information Service (MRIS) has been in operation for over nine years. It is sponsored by the U.S. Maritime Administration and operated by the Transportation Research Board of the National Research Council for the benefit of the maritime industry. The purpose of the service is to provide rapid access to maritime information that has been brought together from numerous sources.

MRIS selects, abstracts, and stores maritime information that relates to the design, building and operation of commercial vessels. The information covers vessels that operate on inland waterways as well as in foreign commerce.

The MRIS data base now contains 20,000 abstracts of reports, journal articles and conference proceedings. Storage of this information in the computer at the National Research Council makes it possible to retrieve information on request, and to use the output to produce publications.

The sources of information for MRIS input consist of articles from the various maritime journals (U.S. and foreign), reports resulting from government sponsored research, conference proceedings, and papers from technical societies such as SNAME.

The maritime information in MRIS is from international as well as domestic sources. The major input of overseas maritime information is covered through exchange agreements with the British Ship Research Association, the Norwegian Ship Research Institute, and membership in foreign technical societies.

Basically MRIS provides information in four different ways. First - to subscribers through two publications:

MRIS Abstracts is issued in June and December each year. Each issue covers all the information collected during each six month period and has two major divisions: abstracts of reports and journal papers, and summaries of ongoing research. The abstracts and summaries are grouped under 24 subject areas that are listed later in the paper. In addition, each issue of the Abstracts has a keyword index, a list of authors, and a list of publishers and performing or publishing agencies.

Current Awareness Service is issued each month and contains abstracts of published reports and papers as well as summaries of ongoing research that were abstracted during the month. The format is the same as MRIS ABSTRACTS, but without indexes. In addition, each issue contains information on maritime meetings and conferences.

Second - on-request computer retrievals on specific topics. These generally are handled very simply by a telephone call to one of the MRIS maritime information specialists.

Third - U.S. and Canadian users can now search the MRIS data base via the Lockheed DIALOG on-line retrieval system. This new mode of access to maritime information makes it possible for users to search for information on specific questions and learn immediately of information that is contained in the data base. Applicable Abstracts can be displayed at the user's terminal or may be ordered through Lockheed's off-line printout service. Each abstract indicates where the user may acquire the corresponding report or article that is represented by the abstract.

Present U.S. and Canadian users of DIALOG data bases do not need to make additional arrangements with Lockheed to use the MRIS data base. U.S. and Canadian Organizations who are not present DIALOG users should communicate with Lockheed to receive an order form for on-line use and an information package that describes all DIALOG services and how to use them * At present, there is no provision for use by overseas organizations.

Fourth - Special publications represent the last type of MRIS output. Generally these are bibliographies with abstracts. Four bibliographies of this type, already published, are Marine System in Frigid Environments, March 1978; Waterborn Transit, October 1978 and Maritime Information Sources: A Guide to Current Date, August 1979 and Dry Bulk Carriers, Cargos and Terminals, April 1980.

All information abstracted and stored in the data base is classified according to one of the following 24 categories:

- 01 Arctic and Cold Weather Operations
- 02 Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration
- 03 Auxiliaries
- 04 Cargo and Materials Handling
- 05 Corrosion, Fouling and Protection
- 06 Electric Generation and Distribution
- 07 Experimental Ships and Special Type of Craft
- 08 Lubrication, Fuels and Combustion Technology
- 09 Management and Advanced Planning
- 10 Maritime Labor, Education and Training
- 11 Marketing and Traffic Management
- 12 Materials
- 13 Navigation, Communications, and Detection
- 14 Pollution Abatement and Control
- 15 Ports and Waterways

*Further information on Lockheed's DIALOG on-line retrieval system may be obtained from Customer Services, 3460 Hillview Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94304. In the continental United States, the TOLL FREE number is (800) 227-1960, except California. California users may call TOLL FREE (800) 982-5838. A Customer Services representative may also be reached for direct assistance on (415) 493-4411 ext. 45412.

- 16 Propellers, Gear Trains, Shafting, and Couplings
- 17 Propulsion Machinery
- 18 Safety and Damage Control
- 19 Ship Construction, Conversion and Repair
- 20 Ship Design and Analyses
- 21 Ship Handling and Control Systems
- 22 Ship Operation
- 23 Strength of Materials and Structural Analysis
- 24 Trade Development and International Commerce

MRIS is one of four modally oriented transportation information services operated by the Transportation Research Board. The other three are the Highway (HRIS), Railroad (RRIS), and Air Transport (ATRIS) research information services. Since all four modes use the same software and computer, it is possible to provide multimodal retrievals when required by a requestor's need for transportation information.

There are additional sources of information that can be tapped only through voluntary cooperation. These consist of the many individuals, companies, state and local agencies who collect maritime information or produce reports in the maritime field. If these reports are forwarded to MRIS, on Loan for input, the service can provide greater indepth output for all users.

We believe that cooperation of this type by people seeking specific maritime information as well as the agencies that generate information, can only improve the quality and usefulness of the service.

For further information about MRIS, Write or Call:

MARITIME RESEARCH INFORMATION SERVICE
2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20418
Tel: (202) 389-6687 or 6452

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